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RECENT LITERATURE.

Wheeler's Report Upon the United States Survey West of the One-Hundredth Meridian.¹—An approximate notion of the extent of the work of the United States Survey west of the one-hundredth meridian, and of the labor involved in putting it upon record, may be had by a consideration of the extent of the territory involved.

The area within the United States west of the one-hundredth meridian of longitude (1,443,360 square miles) embraces, entire, the basins of the Colorado (270,000 square miles), Interior (208,600 square miles), Coast (100,900 square miles), and Sacramento (64,300 square miles); also that part of the Columbia (215,700 square miles) south of the forty-ninth parallel, and portions of the basins of the Missouri (338,200 square miles), Rio Grande (123,000 square miles), Arkansas (75,500 square miles), Brazos (34,800 square miles), and the Red River of the North (3,360 square miles).

Volume I., recently issued, closes the series. It is devoted to the geographical report, and is a most interesting as well as comprehensive description of the areas occupied, and their population, with their industries, their communications, irrigation systems, and artesian wells. The chapter on the Indians is the result of the author's personal observations, and contains advice worth heeding.

Appendix F contains a detailed account of the operations of the Wheeler survey. The first expedition took the field in May, 1871. The area embraced was 72,250 square miles, including portions of Central, Southern, and Southwestern Nevada, Eastern California, Southwestern Utah, Northwestern, Central, and Southern Arizona.

The survey of 1872 commenced on July 7th, and was completed on the 11th of December. The area embraced was 47,866 square miles, including portions of Central, Western, and Southwestern Utah, Eastern Nevada, and Northwestern Arizona.

In 1873 the expedition took the field in three divisions, organized respectively at Santa Fé, New Mexico; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Denver, Colorado. The area embraced was 72,500 square miles, including portions of Central and Southern Utah; Northern, Central,

¹ Report Upon the United States Geological Surveys West of the One-Hundredth Meridian, in Charge of Captain George M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, under the Direction of the Chief of Engineers, United States Army. Volume I., Geographical Report.

Eastern, and Southeastern Arizona; Southwestern, Western, Northwestern, and Central New Mexico; and Central, Southern, and Southwestern Colorado. The area of the expedition of 1872 was entered along certain lines.

The several parties of the expedition in 1874 took the field from the camp of organization at Pueblo, Colorado, previous to and on the 6th of August. The territory embraced in the field of operations is bounded on the north by the latitude of the Spanish Peaks, and on the south by a latitude line passing through Santa Fé; on the east by longitude $104^{\circ} 07' 30''$ west, and on the west by the western boundary of Colorado and New Mexico, approximately.

The expedition of 1875 was organized in two sections of three parties each, one to operate from Los Angeles, California, and the other from Pueblo, Colorado, at initial points. The California division disbanded at Caliente, California, in November, 1875, and the Colorado section at West Las Animas, Colorado, November 25th. The area occupied was 39,169 square miles, including portions of Southern Colorado, Northwestern New Mexico, Southern California, small sections in Southwestern Nevada, and Western Arizona.

In 1876 the survey was again organized in two sections; the Colorado section, of two parties, at Fort Lyon, Colorado, and the California section, of four parties, at Carson City, Nevada. These sections took the field during the month of August, and were disbanded late in November at the above-named points. The areas that had been visited in 1871, '72, '73, '74, and '75 were again entered along certain lines when necessary to perfect the continuous belts of triangulation required to cover entirely the country under examination.

The expedition in 1877 was organized in three divisions; one, of two parties, at Fort Lyon, Colorado; a section, of two parties, at Carson, Nevada; and a third, of two parties, at Ogden, Utah. The field of survey comprised 32,477 square miles, in West Central Colorado, Central New Mexico, Northwestern Utah, Southeastern Idaho, Northeastern and East Central California, and South Central Oregon.

The areas embraced by the expeditions of 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876 were again entered along certain lines when required to complete triangular observation.

The expedition of 1878 took the field in three divisions of three parties each. Of the Colorado division one party was organized at Fort Stanton, New Mexico, and two at Fort Garland, Colorado. The two parties of the California division were organized respectively at

Carson, Nevada, and at Camp Bidwell, California. Ogden, Utah, was the initial point of the Utah section. An area aggregating 25,550 square miles was occupied, situated chiefly in Southwestern New Mexico, Northern Utah, Northern, Central, and Southwestern California, Western Nevada, and Central Oregon.

Areas embraced during the seasons of 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877 were again visited along certain lines when rendered necessary in perfecting triangulation and topographic details.

In 1879 several small parties were sent out to complete details in certain areas entered during the years 1873, 1875, 1877, and 1878.

The survey was terminated at the same time as that under Dr. F. V. Hayden, by the act of Congress creating the United States Geological Survey. While it was probably well that the geological survey should have been undertaken by a bureau of the Interior Department, it is not so clear that the topographical work should have been so disposed of. That this should be done by the United States Engineers seems eminently proper, since the educated men and the plant in instruments, etc., have been in that department of the government service from its commencement. To duplicate this seems to be an unwise and unnecessary expense.

The Itinerary of the Colorado Grand Cañon and River trip of 1871 is of absorbing interest.

The text is abundantly illustrated with fine chromo-lithographs, and the value of the work enhanced by the reproduction of old maps, with notes and references to geographical coördinates for a permanent official topographic atlas of the United States.

The value of a reliable geographical report on the territory discussed in this book is inestimable, and the highest praise is due to the distinguished author for the faithful, accurate, and above all, systematic production of so great an amount of geographic, geologic, and other scientific material.